This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Infectious agent-neutralizing, bifunctional small molecules that recruit naturally occurring dinitrophenol (DNP) antibodies	Bifunctional small molecules containing an infectious agent-targeting moiety linked to DNP could help treat infectious diseases. An HIV gp120-targeting small molecule linked to DNP, which triggers a complement-dependent antibody response, inhibited gp120 activity <i>in vitro</i> . In gp120-expressing rodent cell culture containing anti-DNP antibodies and rabbit complement proteins, the compound bound antibodies and gp120 to induce cell death via activation of the complement system. Next steps include ongoing work to extend the approach to treat other infectious diseases, cancer and autoimmune indications. <i>SciBX</i> 2(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1585 Published online Oct. 29, 2009	Patented by Yale University; available for licensing	Parker, C. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> ; published online Oct. 19, 2009; doi:10.1021/ja9057647 Contact: David A. Spiegel, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: david.spiegel@yale.edu